Sale of hotel building by Ashoka Beach Resort

3020. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total extent of land and hotel building owned by the former Ashoka Beach Resort under ITDC in Kerala, sold to Gulfar Group and the reasons for such transfer.

(b) whether the land under Halcyon Castle included in the above sale and if so, whether any records exist to establish the ownership of Castle to ITDC; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct any inquiry on the illegal transfer of Kovalam Palace at par with that of Centaur Hotel and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The total extent of land and hotel building owned by the former Ashoka Beach Resort under ITDC in Kerala was 64.5 acres (25.78.40 hectares). The said property was disinvested under the policy of disinvestment of the Government of India and sold to M/s. M.Far Hotels Ltd.

(b) Halcyon Castle was the part of Kovalam Ashoka Beach Resort for the purpose of disinvestment. There are documents which clearly establish the ownership of the entire 64.5 acres of land including Halcyon Castle to ITDC.

(c) The matter is presently *sub-judice* in the court.

Irrigation projects

†3021. SHRI JENESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after 58 years of Independence, our country is dependent on rains for 57 per cent of its agriculture;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are aware of the present enhanced amount of the cost of irrigation potential per hectare from Rs. 1500 of the first plan; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the budget in terms of crores of rupees carried forward by irrigation projects (big and medium) from Ninth Five Year Plan to Tenth Plan and the details of the approved and unapproved projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) As per the latest assessment, the net sown area in the country is 132.8 million hectare and the net irrigated area is 53.07 million hectare. Thus, about 60% of the net sown area is unirrigated. Only part of the ultimate irrigation potential has been developed so far. Further, development of irrigation facilities is also restricted in certain areas due to topographical features.

(c) The rate of creation of irrigation potential varies considerably from State to State and it also depends upon the sources of utilization. Broadly, at present, the rate for development of irrigation potential through surface water is about Rs. 1,20,000 per hectare and that for ground water development is Rs. 30,000 per hectare.

(d) There are 388 major and medium irrigation projects in the country which have spilled over from Ninth Five Year Plan to Tenth Five Year Plan with spill-over cost of about Rs. 1,07,223 crore. Out of 388 projects, 221 are duly approved.

Surface water and ground water resources for irrigated agriculture land

†3022. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that surface water resources and ground water resources irrigated 21-million and 27-million hectare of agriculture land respectively in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.